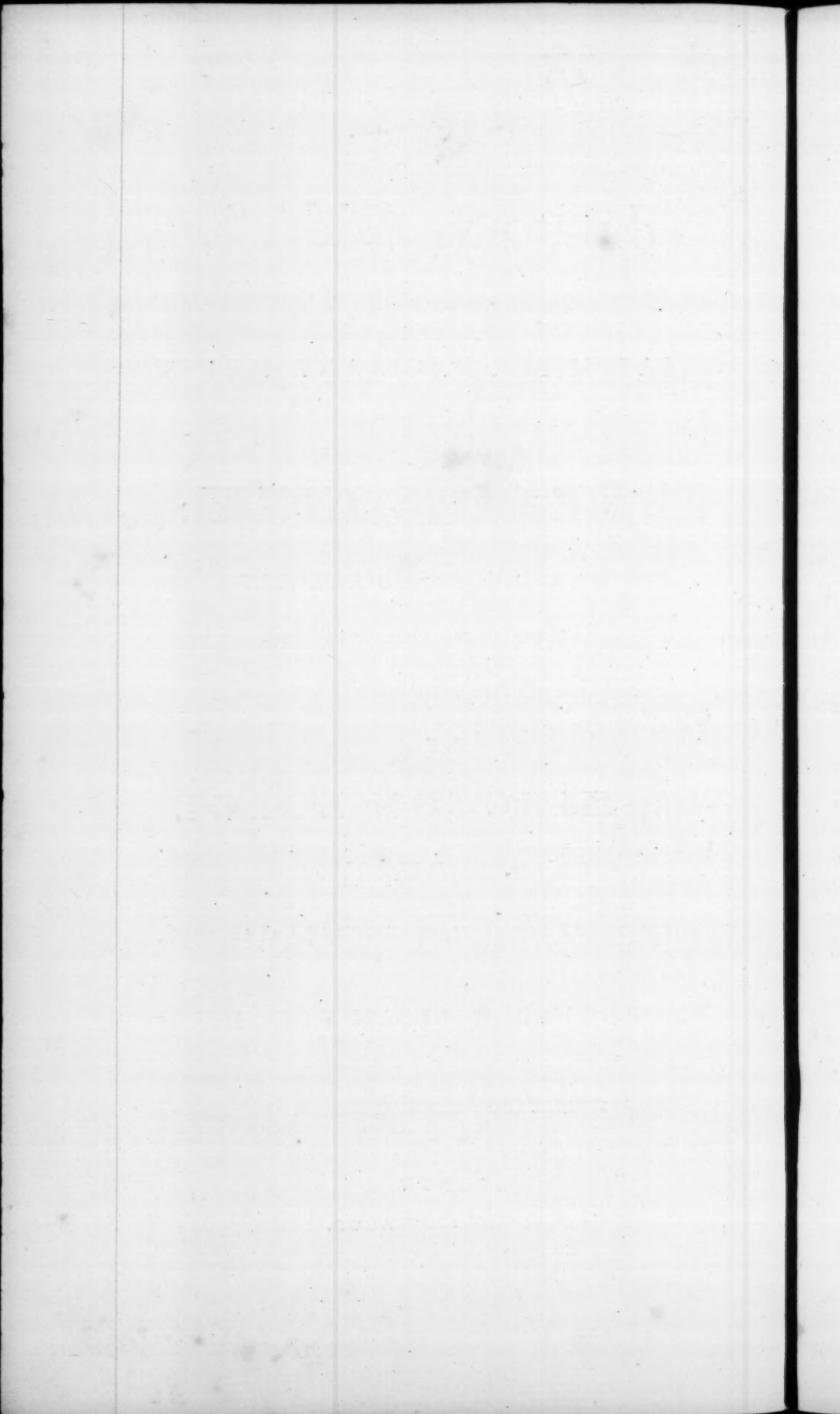


A
Salutatory Address,
ON THE
SOCIAL INFLUENCE AND MERIT
OF
FREE MASONRY:
DELIVERED IN PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
AT THE REQUEST OF THE
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF
WASHINGTON LODGE
IN ROXBURY,
AT THEIR CONSECRATION, OCTOBER 12, A. L. 5796.

BY BROTHER WILLIAM DIX, A.M.

BOSTON:
WILLIAM SPOTSWOOD.

1797.



A

Salutatory Address.

RESPECTED HEARERS,

WE have assembled together, at this time, to countenance an institution which serves to extend the principles of *Concord* and of *Virtue*, and to render man amiable and friendly to man.

WHILE in other nations are heard the clamouring tumults of *Discord*, and the piteous groans of *War*, we are allowed under the mild auspices of *Liberty* and *Peace*, to cultivate those arts and encourage those institutions, which harmonize the passions and perfect the virtues of individuals, which embellish the state of general society, and bind together in the same amities and interests the whol

family of mankind.—To revive and expand these noble principles, is an object dear to every human being in whose heart flows cheerily “the milk of human kindness:” and to the venerable order of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS has been an endeavour, strenuous as their most active abilities,—and a desire, warm and animated as any Philanthropy ever formed.

WHILE this day affords an opportunity of expressing our united attachment to the grand principles of humanity, let it prove a new motive to strengthen the endearing ligature which binds congenial hearts.—To my valued Brethren of WASHINGTON LODGE, the present occasion is replete with *interesting, important, and joyous* circumstances. It is the *birth-day* of their privileges; and they are now to receive the sanction of establishment, and the solemnity of consecration. Cheerfully do I do mingle my felicitations with theirs.

IT is truly pleasing to see these Colonies of the friends of *Wisdom* and *Charity* spreading themselves around. It is a renewed evidence of the acknowledged importance, and increased reputation of our excellent society.

Right Worshipful MASTER, *Respected* OFFICERS, and *beloved* BRETHREN of WASHINGTON LODGE ! with all the sincerity of fraternal affection does my heart proffer you its best wishes. Nor need I extend the desires of cordial regard, for your united and individual prosperity, farther than this comprehensive hope, that, as you have adopted the *name* of our MOST RENOWNED BROTHER for the commendatory title of your Lodge, you may adopt his *virtues* for the commendatory ornament of your lives !—May the Lodge now consecrated, be conspicuous for its clear *light*, and long honored in its enlarging sphere of *usefulness* and *glory* !

AND surely these congratulations and wishes are reciprocated by every friend to the social interests and happiness of mankind. Especially when they are daily more and more convinced, that the *light* in which we rejoice, is not the mimic blaze which glitters o'er the train of folly, but the steady lustre reflected from those resplendent luminaries of the Masonic hemisphere, WISDOM, TRUTH, and VIRTUE.

LET it be remembered, that on the firm basis of general *Philanthropy* are erected the pillars of our institution, modelled to a perfection which no art can excel, no marble outlive. While we admire the noble structure of the edifice, we receive the most pleasing satisfaction and instruction in perusing those heavenly documents which compose its arcana. We are there taught the most solid truths, important and interesting to the welfare of mankind. Directed by the grand principles there delineated, we approach nearer the divine plan of the SOVEREIGN ARCHITECT; and becoming perfect masons, are rendered wiser and better members of society. In the calm moments of reflection, when divested of the impressions of prejudice, the world will approve the principles which animate us; since it is their glory to call forth into action the most benevolent and noble feelings of the heart. The salutary institutes of our Craft are happily calculated to produce the greatest comfort to individuals and to augment the happiness of society, by teaching us to become temperate, just, benevolent and pious; and by directing the natural propensities of the human soul, the love of pleasure and the

love of action, to their noblest ends. Those qualities of the mind, which are thus excited and exercised, tend immediately to refine our feelings and dignify our natures. And over the scenes both of retired and public life, their benign influence sheds a mild and pleasing lustre. The combined effect is allow- edly conducive to the amelioration of man- ners, and the improvement of social bliss.

So long as our race shall be subject to infir- mity and exposed to misfortune, *friendly hu- manity* will be deemed a virtue and a blessing; and so long as individuals can derive advan- tage or pleasure from reciprocal interest and attachment, the credit of this fraternity must increase, and Masonry continue to deserve universal approbation.

AT the same time that the instructions and operations of the Lodge assist in giving to the intellectual and moral faculties the *Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty* which accomplish their perfection; they industriously *contrive* and generously *support* those ingenious discoveries and useful arts which correct *taste* and em- bellish *life*.

GREAT are our obligations to those venerable characters in whom first dawned the light of Masonry; the united and increasing radiance of which, diffusing itself over remotest climes, has been continually dispelling the noxious vapors of gloomy superstition and the gathering clouds of threatening envy. And we rejoice in those energetic exertions which have successfully contributed to form a society, and bring into complete operation an establishment, whose only aim is that of uniting, in the same softened and virtuous affections, the whole human race.

LET no breast, then, harbor sentiments incompatible with the liberal principles on which our association is founded: since it must be perverseness to deny its merited honors to a Society which has risen superior, in every age, to partiality and prejudice; and, by the testimony of its effects, silenced objection and conciliated esteem.—

THE flowers of fancy and the figures of eloquence would be vainly lavished in its praise. Sufficiently attractive to your eyes is the unadorned portrait. The pencil of *Truth* has sketched the outline, and given the description of its beautiful features.

IN conclusion, my Brethren will permit me to observe, that, as we aspire to the praise of *Wisdom* and *Strength*, so we profess ourselves the admirers of BEAUTY, natural, as well as intellectual and moral. They will expect me, therefore, to notice our FAIR FRIENDS, whose presence honors and whose smiles enliven us. We owe them a tribute of warmest thanks for gracing our public assembly.

IT is to be regretted that institutions in general have excluded that lovely sex from becoming members. We disclaim the idea of their being unequal to any important trust or inadequate to the best purposes of society. Were they to mingle more intimately with *social*, or more actively with *political* institutions, much might be expected from their polished talents and beautiful designs. If it be asked why they are not permitted to join with us, in extending the interests of humanity, and in cultivating and improving the friendly virtues; we would reply, that, their charms and attractions, which so decorate the scenery of life, would become incompatible with the labors of the Lodge; that *Love, powerful Love*, might so

influence and triumph, that *Brotherly Affection* would give way to Jealousy, Friendship to Dissimulation, and Judgment to Passion. In the important business of our retirement, the presence of the Fair would so intermingle a train of busy loves, as to banish every other sentiment; and make us inattentive to every care and forgetful of every duty which forms the object and the recommendation of our establishment.—Admit, ye lovely partners of our hearts and hopes, our honest apology: and be assured that the *fidelity* which is inscribed upon the Mason's breast, will give certainty to the Lover's promise, and permanency to the Husband's affection; will render us all more worthy of your regards, and more auxiliary to your happiness.—

BROTHERS,

RECOLLECT that a strict observance of the rules of our duty will ever secure us from censure and reproach. While by our conduct we give no latitude for malicious insinuations, the purity of our intentions, whatever the uncandid may think of them, will not fail to give to our own hearts a confidence which will support and cheer in every scene, and brighten the evening shades of mortal existence.

THE END.

